Making Sugar Co-operative Globally competitive

910. SHRI PRAFUL GORADIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether sugar co-operatives in different States of the country are facing crisis due to mismanagement and lack of professionalism;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to enable the co-operatives to survive this problem; and

(c) whether Government would think of a comprehensive long term policy on sugar import and export to enable the co-operatives to face the global competition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The functioning of the cooperative sugar mills comes under the perview of respective State Government. So far no State Government has reported any lack of professionalism in running the cooperative sugar factories.

However, the Central Government is providing financial assistance from the Sugar Development Fund to the sugar mills on soft terms for cane development and modernisation/rehabilitation schemes.

(c) The Government have already announced various measures for bringing the importers on par with the indigenous producers of sugar, such as introduction of release mechanism, imposition of levy and enhancement of of custom duty to 60%.

The exports of sugar depends on various factors, like, price of sugar in the international market, cost of production of sugar etc. At present, due to low international sugar prices, the exports of sugar are not viable.

Siphoning off of essential commodities through PDS

911. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the essential commodities meant for